

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A package of print media, comprising:  
at least one sheet of print media for imaging thereon, enclosed within a protective packaging; and  
a machine readable medium accompanying said print media and packaging and including machine readable characteristics of said print media, the machine readable medium separable from both the print media and packaging.
2. A package according to claim 1, wherein said machine readable medium includes characteristics of said print media which are of use in configuring an imaging device based on said characteristics to form an image on the at least one sheet of print media.
3. A package according to claim 1, wherein said machine readable medium is disposed between said print media and said protective packaging during transport.
4. A package according to claim 1, wherein said machine readable medium includes an electronically readable medium.
5. A package according to claim 4, wherein said electronically readable medium comprises a smart card.
6. A package according to claim 1, wherein said machine readable medium includes an optically readable medium.
7. A package according to claim 6, wherein said optically readable medium comprises a card bearing contrasting markings.
8. A package according to claim 7, wherein said contrasting markings comprise one of bar and circle codes.

9. A package according to claim 1, wherein said machine readable medium includes a human-readable portion bearing information relating to at least one characteristic of said print media.

10. A package according to claim 1, wherein said at least one sheet comprises a plurality of sheets of a given type of media.

11. A printing apparatus for printing on print media, where at least one characteristic of said print media is specified on a machine readable medium which accompanies said print media, but is separable from both said print media and packaging therefor for reading of said readable medium, said printing apparatus comprising:

a reader for reading said readable medium, for generating a signal representing said at least one characteristic of said print media; and

a controller responsive to said signal, for configuring said printing apparatus based on said at least one characteristic to form an image on said print media.

12. A printing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said readable medium comprises a smart card, and said reader further comprises means for producing at least one of an electric field and a magnetic field in the vicinity of said smart card.

13. A printing apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising  
a holder for holding said readable medium in a particular location for reading by said reader.

14. A printing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said readable medium is in the form of a card, and said reader comprises an optical reader.

15. A printing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said readable medium includes a human-readable portion bearing information relating to at least a characteristic of said

print media, and said holder for holding said readable medium is disposed such that, when said readable medium is placed in the holder, the human-readable portion is visible to an operator.

16. A printing apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said characteristic of said print media is specified on an optically readable record in the form of optically contrasting markings.

17. A printing apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said optical reader is fixed to said printing apparatus at a location where it views a location away from a printing media path extending through said printing apparatus.

18. A machine readable medium in combination with at least one sheet of print media, the machine readable medium having encoded parameter information that corresponds to the sheet of print media, the machine readable medium adapted to be separable from the print media and packaging therefor such that, during operation, the machine readable medium is physically separate from the print media and packaging, for conveying the encoded parameter information to an imaging device capable of configuring at least one parameter of the imaging device based on the encoded parameter information to form images on the at least one sheet of print media.

19. The combination of claim 18, wherein said machine readable medium comprises an electronically or optically readable card.

20. The combination of claim 19, wherein said electronically or optically readable card includes a human-readable portion bearing information relating to at least one characteristic of said print media.

21. The combination of claim 18, wherein the at least one sheet of print media comprises a plurality of sheets of a given type of print media.